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TWO USSR COAL AREAS REPORT PROGRESS ON MINER'S DAY

KARAGANDA COAL OUTPUT INCREASES STEADILY -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda,
26 Aug 51

The first coal was mined in the Karaganda basin in 1856. During the following 75 years, up to 1931, the total coal output from the basin was only equivalent to the amount now produced in one year by the Mine imeni Zhdanov.

During World War II, Karaganda miners kept up a steady supply of coal for USSR industry, and during the postwar years they have been constantly increasing their output until it is now equivalent to almost three times the prewar level.

In recent years alone, hundreds of USSR-made mechanical devices have been introduced in mines of the basin, making it possible to mechanize the most labor-consuming phases of coal mining. Half of the operating faces are equipped with coal combines and loading machines. In 1950 and the first half of 1951, mechanization of coal mining of slightly dipping coal seams increased more than four times. Dozens of coal- and rock-loading machines are being utilized in development work. Hundreds of high-capacity scraper conveyers are employed to convey coal from the mine faces, replacing low-capacity shaker conveyers. Heavy electric locomotives with a weight of 10 tons on the drivers, as well as 3-ton mine cars with automatic bottom dump, are in operation in underground transport in many mines.

Karaganda miners have submitted hundreds of suggestions meant to improve work processes and raise labor productivity. The fourth western mine face of Mine No 33/34, operating on the cycle work schedule, extends along a very thick seam which contains exceedingly tough coal. The Donbass combine which was being employed here was unable to remove coal from the entire length of the face in 24 hours. At the suggestion of several of the personnel, a second cutting bar was affixed to the jointed bar and a second motor was installed in the combine. These changes made it possible to complete a cycle in 24 hours. In Mine No 106 a crosscut had to be made at a high speed along the supporting rock to get from the Zamechatul'nyy seam to the Verkhnyaya Marianna seam. The

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brigade leader of the cutting brigade proposed an improved method of drilling whereby one man went ahead and drilled boreholes to a depth of one meter and was followed by a second who completed the drilling to the entire required depth. This method increased the rate of passage cutting from 15-20 meters per month to 91.5 meters.

Miners of the Karaganda basin, following the example of Donbass miners, are aiming at mass conversion of mine faces to the cycle work schedule. One of the first mines to succeed in this was the Mine imeni Zhdanov, where all faces are completing one cycle each 24 hours. Labor productivity in the mine has increased greatly, and all workers are fulfilling or exceeding their norms. The average wages of a worker have increased to 4,000 rubles per month, and production costs of a ton of coal have been reduced 2 rubles 60 kopeks since the conversion of the mine to the cycle schedule. Mine No 1 has also converted to the cycle schedule with a subsequent increase of 11 percent in its coal output. All workers here, too, are fulfilling or exceeding their norms. In some mines conservatism, routine, and dread of innovations prevail, and here the cycle work schedule is meeting with opposition.

This year, Karaganda miners are continuing their traditional competition with the miners of the Voroshilovgradugol' Combine. They have promised during 1951 to mine 200,000 tons of coal above plan, to convert one third of the mine faces to the cycle work schedule, to mechanize 55 percent of coal loading at the mine face, to improve the quality of the coal mined, to lower production costs 8 percent, to exceed the plan for capital construction 12 percent, and to raise labor productivity considerably.

Much coal above plan has been mined by the Karagandauglerazrez Trust, 49 sections, and 90 brigades. Thousands of workers exceeded their 8-month quota by Miner's Day.

In addition to the outstanding enterprises in the basin there are many lagging mines which do not even fulfill the plan, not to mention their additional pledges. Among these are Mine No 20-bis, No 49, No 18, No 18-bis, No 1-bis, and No 38. At these mines work is poorly organized, development work lags, and mechanical devices are utilized unsatisfactorily.

During the first half of 1951, constructors in the basin did not complete the plan for capital construction. This lag must be overcome in the remaining months of the year, and the plan must be completed by 5 December, Stalin Constitution Day. Leaders of trusts, mines, and enterprises must prepare for work under winter conditions before October to assure uninterrupted operation of the mines during the winter.

Along with the increase in coal mining, the city of Karaganda is being transformed into a well-organized industrial center. In the last year and a half alone, miners of Karaganda have received 170,000 square meters of housing, two clubs, and a Miner's Palace which is one of the most beautiful structures in the republic. Karaganda has streetcars, autobus connections, and streets surfaced with asphalt and planted with trees.

GRUZUGOL' COMBINE EXCEEDS PLAN -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 26 Aug 51

The coal output from Georgian mines is increasing steadily. The republic has begun an extensive program for constructing new mines, coal-cleaning plants, and miners' cities. The Gruzugol' Combine exceeded the plan for coal output for 1950 and began 1951 considerably better equipped to fulfill the increased quota.

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The Georgian coal output was 286.8 percent as high in 1950 as in 1940. In the first half of 1951, 64 percent more coal was mined than in all of 1940 and 29 percent more than in the first half of 1950.

The 1951 plan for coal output has been exceeded to date, and obligations assumed by the Gruzugol' Combine to mine 50,000 tons of coal above plan have been completed ahead of schedule. The plan for cutting main development tunnels has been completed 108.9 percent by the combine, and the plan for labor productivity in exploitation work 103.1 percent. Production costs of the coal mined have been reduced 692,000 rubles, and the production costs per ton of coal have been reduced 5 rubles 70 kopeks over those of the same period of 1950. The best results are being achieved by the Tkvarchelugol' Trust, which completed the 7-month plan 112.5 percent and is operating even more effectively in August.

Although coal mining has increased in recent months in mines of the Akhaltsikhe Mine Administration, nevertheless the output has not yet reached the planned level. The first obligation of the directors of the Akhaltsikhe Mine Administration and of the Gruzugol' Combine is to overcome this lag and to convert the mines into outstanding enterprises in the near future.

The average monthly pay of workers has risen with the rise in labor productivity. In 1945 it was 731 rubles per worker, in 1950 it rose to 1,112 rubles, and during 7 months of 1951 it has jumped to 1,163 rubles.

Profiting by the experience of Donbass miners, the Gruzugol' Combine has begun to introduce the cycle work schedule in its mines. First tests were made in mines of the Tkvarchelugol' Trust, where sections of the Mine imeni Stalin and Akhblari Mine, operating on this schedule in August, had a coal output 20 percent higher than in July. In the near future, seven additional faces will be converted.

In all mines of the combine, shooting and conveying are completely mechanized and underground transport of coal is handled by electric locomotive.

In the Mine imeni Stalin of the Tkibulugol' Trust, coal mining with hydraulic backfilling of the worked-out areas is used extensively. By the end of the year, this method will be adopted also in the Mines imeni Lenin and imeni Molotov.

A tunneling shield will be put into operation soon in a mine of the Akhaltsikhe Mine Administration, for the first time in the USSR coal industry.

As a result of the All-Union Socialist competition, the Gruzugol' Combine was numbered among the outstanding enterprises of the coal industry. For both the first and the second quarters the combine was awarded the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR and first All-Union prizes. The Tkvarchelugol' Trust has held the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR during the first half of 1951 and the Mine imeni Lenin of the Tkibulugol' Trust has held the Transferable Red Banner of the VTsSPS and the Ministry of the Coal Industry during the same period. All-Union prizes have been awarded to the Tkibulugol' Trust, Gelati Mine, the Mine imeni Beriia, and Akhblari Mine of the Tkvarchelugol' Trust.

GEORGIAN SSR INCREASES COAL BALANCE -- Moscow, Ugol', No 8, Aug 51

Experiments have recently been carried out which indicate that it is possible to use Tkibuli liptobiolitic coals and shales in various branches of industry. These liptobiolitic coals and shales are located between layers of coal in the Mines imeni Lenin, imeni Stalin, and imeni Molotov of the Tkibulugol' Trust and were formerly merely left in the ground when the coal was removed. Laboratory and plant experimentation has proved that it is not only possible but even advantageous to utilize them. Consequently, the liptobiolitic coals and shales are now removed when the coal is extracted and add considerably to the coal balance of the republic.

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Another important line of experimentation concerns the possibility of working coal deposits located under river beds in mines of the Tkvarchelugol' Trust. Experiments carried out by the Tkvarchelugol Trust in collaboration with the All-Union Scientific Research and Surveying Institute have shown that it is possible to remove considerable amounts of coking coal from under river beds.

Industrial experimentation in the burning of Akhaltsikhe coal in the form of dust in the TETs of the Transcaucasian Metallurgical Plant carried on by the Power-Engineering Institute of the Academy of Sciences Georgian SSR in 1950 gave positive results. During 1951, experiments on enriching Akhaltsikhe coal by the dry separation method will be carried on.

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